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Amdt. Dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 20, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph 0014, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0014]   FIG. 7 illustrates an in-home monitoring system constructed in accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph 0016, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0016] One aspect of the invention is a system for monitoring activity of a resident. The system includes at least one sensor for collecting data points on activity of the resident, a communication platform in communication with the at least one sensor, and a monitoring center located remote from the resident and in communication with the communication platform. The monitoring center includes a database for collecting the data points on activity of the resident. The collected data points are collated into at least three time slots per every twenty-four hour time cycle for determining activity of the resident.

Please replace the paragraph 0026, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0026]   At Step 205 (FIG. 5), a buffer time period is added to the maximum historical quiet time embodied in the maximum inactivity time line 54 of FIG. 2. The rationale for providing a buffer is that inactivity for a short amount of time longer than has been registered in the past may not be appropriate for the issuing of an alert. With reference to FIG. 2, as one may expect, the greatest accumulation of inactivity, slightly in excess of eight hours, is at about 8:00 AM. Further as one may expect, the accumulation of inactivity follows an upwardly sloping curve from around midnight to the 8:00 AM time slot, at which point the slope sharply descends. A buffer, or alert, timeline 56 is provided at an interval of ninety minutes above the maximum inactivity timeline 54. In this way, an alert is delayed ninety minutes from any anomalous data point 19 during any time slot. For example and with reference to the data in Table 1, if a ninety-minute buffer is used, then at 9:30 the resident must be quiet for longer than seventy-four plus ninety minutes, or two hours and forty-four minutes, before an alert is issued. Further, it should be appreciated for timelines that represent inactivity, the maximum inactivity timeline 54 cannot increase more than the

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duration of the timeslot between two adjacent timeslots. For example, and with reference to Table 1, if the 00:00 value for December 1, 2003 represents the maximum value of quiet time experienced, namely ninety-six minutes, and the timeslots are thirty minutes each, then the maximum value at 12:30 AM (00:30) cannot be greater than one-hundred and twenty-six minutes.

Please replace the paragraph 0034, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034]   Furthermore, instead of tracking the maximum inactivity threshold, historical activity signatures can be constructed based upon the minimum inactivity threshold. For example, the movement of an external door may be significant, depending upon the time at which such movement occurs. By taking historical data points 19 on the external doors with the sensors 15, historical data can be collected to provide a time line of activity. The time line will slope upwards during times of inactivity, generally during the night, and will slope sharply downward upon any movement. A data point 19 indicating the opening of an external door at, for example, 3:00 AM will be far below the minimum time line for the sensors 15, and may indicate an unusual occurrence.

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